From: Travis Watkins
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:49am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to state my disapproval of the Microsoft Anti-Trust Settlement

1) With Regards to Microsoft settling by giving computers and software to schools:
A)Allowing Microsoft to buy it's way out by getting a wedge into a market where it has been unsuccessful in the past is not a good Idea in my opinion
B) At the least, Microsoft should be forced to give Money instead of forcing the schools in question to use Microsoft or gain no benefit from the settlement

2) So long as their 'Dubious business practices' are more profitable than 'playing fair' they will continue to use their monopolistic advantage to force out competitors in all fields that they choose to enter.
A) Example: Windows XP. XP, due to it's design is almost like a petri dish for internet viruses. The TCP/IP Stack is completely open, allowing anything from the standard Microsoft attacking viruses to ones that allow a cracker(the malicious type of Hacker) to copy everything off of your computer and take complete control of it(I believe that this sort of virus may already exist, but I think they mostly require that a Trojan program(a program that claims to be one thing but does something else instead, like a word processing program that actually formats the hard drive) to be run before they can work properly. With XP, I would expect that this could easily be incorporated in a worm like the 'I Love You' virus.

While I have not ever written a virus, I am quite familiar with scripting and network protocols, and a whenever you make something easier for the naive user, you also make it much easier for the malicious user, That would be why there are so many more Windows viruses as compared to Unix/linux viruses(in addition to the greater installed Windows base)

I have even heard many claims that the vulnerabilities in XP are designed to make the Internet as it is today(Primarily using the TCP Protocol on top of IP[TCP/IP]) untenable due to virus proliferation. This could pave the way for Microsoft to introduce their own proprietary Protocol to go on top of TCP or even IP that would basically divide the internet into two pieces, Those systems running on a Microsoft Operating System, and those that are not, and those that are not could not access anything that was on a system running a MS OS.

The only reason that I would suspect that this is not indeed a
Microsoft plot to force everyone on-line to use a Microsoft
Operating system, is the fact that Microsoft uses Linux for their
own web servers(Probably having found their own operating systems
too fragile/bulky/high-maintenance for any
serious/vital/mission-critical usage)

This is not the first time Microsoft has tried something of this
nature, and it won't be the last, unless they are shown that they
cannot treat computers as their own private domain.

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